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COUNTRY East Germany

CLASSIFICATION SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The following observations were made at Koethen airfield between 16 and 26 June 1953:

16 June. Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., MiG-15s took off mostly individually and occasionally in formations of four. One plane was observed towing a sleeve target. Air activity continued until about 5 p.m. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] MiG-15s parked at the field.

17 June. About noon, a few take-offs and landings were made by single-engine planes. Twenty-seven MiG-15s were parked at the field.

18 June. There was no air activity. Patrol details of 25 men each riding on trucks were observed in the town. [REDACTED]

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20 June. Between 11 a.m. and noon, take-offs were made by two elements of two including [REDACTED] More than 40 MiG-15s, [REDACTED] were observed at the field, some of them being parked in shrapnelproof aircraft revetments. All planes were guarded by individual sentries. At about 5:30 p.m., 23 men were engaged in digging positions in the southeastern corner of the field outside the fence.

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21 June. There was no air activity during the morning. The aircraft were still parked in a dispersed pattern. The digging of positions continued.

24 June. In the afternoon, eight MiG-15s [REDACTED] were observed on the dispersal area of the alert flight. There were also two tents near which the aircraft crews wearing flying suits played ball. There was air activity between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. [REDACTED] Digging work was still under way.

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26 June. Between 5:45 p.m. and 6:10 p.m., single-engine planes took off individually and made short flights.

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2. The airfield was strictly guarded on 18 June. All hangars were open and empty. A total of 44 MiG-15 and U-MiG-15 planes, including No 411, were dispersed over the entire airfield. Some of the planes were parked in shrapnelproof aircraft revetments. Trucks and tank trucks were covered with camouflage nets. There was no air activity.

3. Between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 20 June, there was air activity by MiG-15s. About noon, a biplane took off, flew around the field and landed after one hour. The plane took off for the same flight at 2:30 p.m. 25X1X

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Comment. According to available information, Koethen airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments. The observations made during the period from 16 to 24 June 1953, when there were disturbances in East Germany, furnish a good picture of the measures taken by the units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army on this special occasion: the aircraft were on the alert, the planes stationed at the field were dispersed over the field outside the hangars and some were parked in the shrapnelproof aircraft revetments; the number of sentries was increased; individual sentries were posted at the planes; and entrenching operations were conducted which were designed to facilitate the defense of the field against ground troops. It is believed that the same measures were taken at the other airfields in East Germany. The observation that the hangars were vacated and the aircraft were parked in dispersed pattern at the field indicates the possibility that the Soviets might have reckoned with the support of the rioters by western troops. The measures taken offered the advantage to the sources to observe the total number of aircraft outside the hangars. The observations made indicate that a strength of 44 MiG-15 is approximately correct.

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